BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

1965

Medical Officer of Health

M. JONES ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin.

Telephone No. Ruthin 2361/2

Public Health Inspector

D. S. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Mr. Morgan and I have pleasure in presenting our combined report on the health of the Borough during 1965.

We wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, the Chairmen of the various Committees, and Members of the Council for the assistance we have received during the year. We also thank the Officials and members of the staff for their ready assistance at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Mayor of the Borough and the Chairmen of the various Committees during the year were as follows :—

Mayor of the Borough :—

January—May : Alderman J. DYFED ROBERTS.
May—December : Councillor O. LLEWELLYN HUGHES.

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee :—

Councillor ELLIS DAVIES.

Chairman of the Water Committee :—

Councillor ELLIS DAVIES.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of Borough	2,016 acres
Registrar General's estimated population (mid-1965)...	3,780
Number of inhabited houses	1,183
Rateable Value (1.4.65)	£150,143
Sum represented by a penny rate	£582.13. 9

The estimated population of the Borough was 3,780 compared with 3,740 in 1964, an increase of 40.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,183 compared with 1,150 in 1964, an increase of 33.

Comparability Factor 0.75

	England and Wales, 1965	1965	1964
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	11.5	14.55	10.9
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	—	10.91	7.4
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 population)	—	.53	Nil
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	15.7	33.8	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate	0.25	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	19.0	17.5	18.5
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate live births)	—	17.5	19.2
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births)	—	Nil	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births). First 4 weeks	13.0	Nil	18.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	—	Nil	18.5
Peri-natal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	—	33.8	18.5

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year. The number of deaths which occurred in 1964 is shown in the first column for comparison.

	1964	Sex	Total all ages 1965	Under Four weeks	Four weeks & under 1 year	15-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
	1	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	1	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	F	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
	—	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
	2	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	1	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
	1	F	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Heart Disease	4	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	4	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5
Other Circulatory Disease	1	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	1	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bronchitis	7	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	—	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Congenital Malformations	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All Other Accidents	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suicide	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total All Causes	26	M	24	—	—	—	1	3	3	4	13
	15	F	31	—	1	—	—	2	2	6	20

There were 55 deaths during the year compared with 41 the previous year, giving a death rate of 10.91 compared with 7.4 in 1964 and 11.5 for England and Wales. Of these deaths, 43 occurred in persons aged 65 years and over.

Cancer caused 18 deaths compared with 8 in 1964; 2 of them were due to lung cancer compared with the same number last year.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system caused 7 deaths compared with 4 in 1964.

Coronary disease and angina accounted for 11 deaths compared with 2 last year. One death was due to hypertension and 8 were due to other heart diseases. Other circulatory diseases caused 4 deaths.

Bronchitis was a cause of death in 2 men compared with 7 in 1964.

One accidental death occurred in a person aged over 80, due to fracture of the Femur caused by a fall to the floor.

Still Births

The Still-birth rate (per 1,000 live and still-births) was 33.8 compared with nil in 1964 and 15.7 for England and Wales. The actual number of still-births was 2 compared with nil the previous year. The cause in one case was multiple congenital abnormalities, and in the other the cause of death was not known.

Infant Deaths

There was 1 infant death compared with 1 in 1964. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 17.5 compared with 18.5 in 1964 and 19.0 for England and Wales. The baby died aged 1 month and the cause of death was myelomeningocele and hydrocephalus. The Health Visitor is of the opinion that the death was unavoidable.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal causes of death, giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of Nil as in the previous year and compared with 0.25 for England and Wales.

Births

Comparability Factor 1.22

Actual number of births registered ..... 126 (49 boys, 77 girls)

Number of births relating to residents ..... 57 (29 boys, 28 girls)

The Hospital in Ruthin has a Maternity Unit which also caters for the surrounding areas. Births relating to residents in the Borough also take place in hospitals in adjoining areas.

The births were classified as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	29	28	57
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	29	28	57

	England and Wales 1965	1965	1964
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	18.1	15.08	14.4
Corrected Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	—	18.39	17.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	—	Nil	3.7

Infectious Diseases

As will be seen in the table, the following infectious diseases were notified during the year :—

	Total 1964	Total 1965	Under 1 year	1-5 years	6-15 years	16-25 years	26-45 years	46-65 years	65 years and over
Measles	5	89	6	29	51	1	2	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	6	90	6	29	51	1	2	—	1

There were 90 cases notified compared with 6 in 1964. Of these, 89 were due to measles and 1 to pulmonary tuberculosis.

Two cases of Chickenpox were notified by a Head Teacher of a Primary school in December. Chickenpox is not a notifiable disease.

Anthrax in Animals

One case of Anthrax in a sow was notified, but after examination by a Ministry Veterinary Officer, this was not confirmed.

One child from outside the area and attending school in the Borough was a contact to a case of dysentry, but there was no spread of infection.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and end of 1965 :—

	Pulmonary Males	Pulmonary Females	Non-Pulmonary Males	Non-Pulmonary Females	Total
Number on Register on 1st January 1965	8	6	2	—	16
Number on Register on 31st December 1965	7	6	3	—	16

Two cases of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were removed from the register as having been cured. One case of pulmonary and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the register during the year, the two non-pulmonary cases having moved into the area.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

These are given altogether in the one injection, usually referred to as the "Triple" injection. Three injections are given at monthly intervals from the age of two to three months and a booster dose is given at eighteen months. At the ages of five and ten years further booster doses of diphtheria and tetanus are given.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the year :—

	PRIMARY			BOOSTER		
Born in year	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Tetanus.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Tetanus.
1965	13	13	13	—	—	—
1964	21	21	21	8	8	8
1963	1	1	1	15	15	15
1962	1	1	1	3	3	3
1958-61	2	1	2	55	—	30
1948-57	1	—	—	7	—	1
Totals	39	37	38	88	26	57

Against Poliomyelitis

Oral vaccine is generally used and three doses of three drops in syrup or on a lump of sugar are given at monthly intervals from the age of six to seven months. A further booster dose is given at the age of five, i.e. on school entry.

The number given protection against this disease during the year was :—

	PRIMARY			BOOSTER		
Born in year.	Quadrilin.	Salk.	Sabin.	Quadrilin.	Salk.	Sabin.
1965	—	—	3	—	—	—
1964	—	3	41	—	—	—
1963	—	—	3	—	—	2
1962	—	—	1	—	—	2
1958-61	—	—	6	—	—	60
1948-57	—	—	8	—	—	31
Total	—	3	62	—	—	95

These four can now be given at the same time, but at the Clinics, the "Triple" is given followed by the "Polio" in young children, but with those not commencing immunisation procedures until a later age, consideration may be given to the injection and "lump of sugar" at the same time. At school entry, both are given together which saves a further visit to the school by the Medical Officer, or a visit to the clinic for the school child.

Against Smallpox

Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out between the first and second year.

The number vaccinated during the year was :—

0—3 months	—
3—6 months	1
6—9 months	—
9—12 months	—
1 year	20
2—4 years	2
5—14 years	—
15 years +	—
Total	23

When attending schools for medical examination, I find that the majority of children seen are due for booster doses, and few require to commence immunisation procedures at the age of five years. Amongst those not immunised, the reason given has been that the parents are against this protection or have not been sufficiently interested to take the baby to the doctor's surgery or clinic for this. The efficacy of immunisation is proved and it is up to the parents to see that their children are protected.

Tuberculosis

All contacts to notified cases are followed up by a visit from the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and she arranges for the children to be tested and receive B.C.G. vaccination. All school children from the age of twelve to thirteen years attending the senior schools are offered this protection. Parental consent is obtained for the testing and vaccination and my impression is that parents are giving this consent more readily and the children have come to accept this immunisation procedure along with the others. Again, it is up to the parents to see that the children are vaccinated.

If the result of the test is "positive" this means that the child has been in contact with the tubercule bacillus and may have had all doses and become immune. In order to make sure that the disease is not present, it is most important for this matter to be followed up. This is done by referring the child to the Chest Clinic for further investigation, or by asking the complete family to attend the Mass Radiography Unit for an X-ray. Neighbours should also accompany them, and especially the older generation in whom one can find tuberculosis and the condition is not known to them.

During the year, Brynhyfryd School was visited for the purpose of testing children aged 13 years and over, and, where necessary, giving B.C.G. vaccination. The number of children tested, etc., at this school was as follows—these figures include children from the Rural District attending this school.

Number of children tested	117
Number of children found to be positive	24
Number of children found to be negative	93
Number of children given B.C.G. vaccination	93

Mass Radiography Unit

The following table shows the number of persons who attended at the Unit for X-ray examination during the year, and include residents of the Rural District. The Unit is stationed on St. Peter's Square, Ruthin, once every three weeks.

Number examined	468
Number of visits	13
Average attendance per visit	36

The type of examinee was as follows :—

General population volunteers	421
General practitioner referals	1
Contacts	46
Scholars	—
Factory Groups (non-industrial)	—

The reports from the unit are confidential and only the patient's doctor is allowed to have these. I find this position very difficult because I do not know who has been diagnosed as a case of T.B. and I am unable to carry out any investigations to prevent the spread of infection, etc. The case may be notified eventually, but there is the possibility of the patient not attending his doctor for some time and may be working in close proximity to others, using the same telephone, working in food premises, etc.

Care of the Aged

[illegible] action under Section 47, National Assistance Act, was taken during the year. Voluntary organisations do a great deal to help those in need, especially at Christmas-time.

Meals on Wheels

It is hoped to commence this service early in the New Year. Apart from having two cooked meals a week, I am sure those receiving the meals will look forward to the visit of the members of the W.V.S. who deliver the meals.

Darby and Joan Club

There is a flourishing Club in the town.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

During the year 298 visits were made to premises on Public Health matters.

Food

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows :—

General Food premises (grocery, etc.)	20
Public Houses and Hotels	10
Cafes and Restaurants	6
School Canteens	4
Kitchens in Hospitals and Old People's Homes	2
Bakehouses	2
Butchers' Shops	10
Fried Fish Shops	5
Vans and Stalls	2

During the year 20 visits have been made to food premises.

Unsound Food

The undermentioned foodstuffs were certified as being unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned meat	94 lbs.
Tinned vegetables	114 lbs.
Tinned fruit	263 lbs.
Tinned fish	40 lbs.
Evaporated milk	35 pints
Miscellaneous tins	15 lbs.

We would like to thank Mr. D. Hugh Owens, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the County of Denbigh, for permission to include the following table.

Article.	No. taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine, or sub-standard.
MILK	8	8	—
Sausages	1	1	—
Coffee	1	1	—
Tinned Tomatoes	1	1	—
Totals	11	11	—

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

Milk

There are four main distributors in the Borough and a few other farms who are distributing on a small scale.

Ice Cream

No samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough, and all the ice cream sold is manufactured by large firms who sample regularly throughout the country.

Meat Inspection

During the year 210 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for the purpose of meat inspection, etc.

Slaughterhouse

There is one slaughterhouse in the centre of the town, and as regards slaughtering it is up to required standards. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have made their annual visits and are satisfied with the existing conditions prevailing there. The Public Health Inspector also is in agreement that the slaughterhouse is up to standard.

Animals Slaughtered

During the year the following number of animals were slaughtered :-

Cattle	518
Calves	20
Sheep	3915
Pigs	713

Condemned Meat

The following meat and offal were rejected as unfit for human consumption :—

Ox Liver	328 lbs.
Sheep Liver	227 lbs.
Pig Liver	221 lbs.
Miscellaneous Offal	10 lbs.
Pig Carcases and Organs	97 lbs.
Sheep Carcases and Organs ...	306 lbs.
Pigs' Heads	26 lbs.
Calf Carcases and Organs	25 lbs.
Beef Carcase Meat	140 lbs.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

No visits were made in connection with the implementation of this Act. A letter of explanation has been sent to the Ministry.

Water Supply

During the year the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board was formed and they undertook all the work from the 1st April regarding the supply of water. We assisted on numerous occasions after this date, and prior to the taking over, the borehole was cleaned.

Nine samples were sent for bacteriological examination. Seven of these were filtered and chlorinated water taken from taps in the town and all were Ministry of Health Class I, satisfactory.

Date.	Nature of sample.	Report.
28.1.65.	From tap at Town Hall, Ruthin. Main piped supply.	Class I - satisfactory.
21.4.65.	Chlorinated water from taps : 82 Haulfryn, Town Hall, Ruthin. Main piped supply.	Class I - satisfactory.
8.6.65.	Filtered and chlorinated water from taps. Clwyd View, Galltegfa. Town Hall, Ruthin. Main piped supply.	Class I - satisfactory.
13.7.65.	Water from Bathafarn Filter House : Filtered from outlet pipe.	Plate Count. Yeastrel Agar 24 hours 37°C aerobically. 5
13.7.65.	Filtered and chlorinated from chlorination tank.	Satisfactory.

13.7.65.	Raw water from tap in pumping station, Efail Newydd.	Satisfactory.
13.7.65.	Filtered and chlorinated water from tap in house, Llanfair Road, Ruthin.	Class I - satisfactory.
	Main piped supply (Bathafarn and Efail Newydd).	

Chemical Samples

No chemical samples were taken during the year.

Housing

The number of houses completed within the Borough during the year is as follows :—

Number of private houses and bungalows completed	29
Number of Council houses, bungalows and flats completed ...	None

The total number of houses in the area is as follows :—

Houses	4-bedroomed	1
	3-bedroomed	254
	2-bedroomed	42
	1-bedroomed	4
Bungalows	2-bedroomed bungalows	50
	1-bedroomed	7
Flats	1-bedroomed	20
	2-bedroomed	8
	Total	386

The position regarding the applicants for Council houses during the year was as follows :—

Number of applicants on register, Dec. 1965	125
Number of new applicants during the year	42
Number rehoused during the year	7

Improvement Grants

The number of Discretionary and Standard Grants approved by the Council during the year is as follows :—

Number of Discretionary Grants ...	5
Number of Standard Grants	0

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Now that the new sewage disposal works is in progress we hope that the insanitary condition at the sewage farm will shortly be at an end. A scheme for the improvement of the sewage works land has been

undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so that it can be burned solely for agricultural purposes.

No biological samples of effluent were taken.

Public Conveniences

There have been no complaints regarding the public conveniences other than a few cases of vandalism, and the condition of the one in Market Street has improved after the walls had been Tyrolean rendered.

Refuse Collection

The town is served with a regular weekly collection of house refuse and approximately 1,570 bins are collected weekly.

Refuse Disposal

The refuse tip is being maintained in as clean a condition as possible and controlled tipping is carried out to the best of our ability, having regard to the covering material and plant available and the extra loads brought in from the R.D.C. During the year the Ruthin R.D.C. deposited 775 loads at the tip.

Offensive Trades

There are five fish frying establishments within the Borough and no complaints have been received about them during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959
Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	5	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	1	—	—
Total	41	6	—	—

Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1965

Total number of accidents within the Borough :—

Slightly injured	11
Seriously injured	5
Fatalities	—
	16

Rodent Control

During the year 40 properties were successfully treated against rats and all infestation notified to the office is promptly dealt with.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway carries out bacteriological examinations of water, food, etc., to detect any contamination. Milk is also examined bacteriologically and biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus.

Examination of throat swabs, blood, faeces, etc., are carried out to detect the presence of bacteria and viruses.

Ambulance Service

The following is given for the information of the Council, and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

	Denbigh.	Ruthin.	Llanrwst.	Llangernyw.	Cerrig y Drudion.	Totals.
Number of cases conveyed by Ambulance	8,577	3,783	61	2,659	81	15,161
Total mileage	74,868	43,735	2,159	27,309	3,964	152,035
Number of ambulances per station	3	3	1	1	1	9
Whether manned by voluntary or full-time personnel	Full-time	Full-time plus Voluntary Assistance	Voluntary.	Full-time plus Voluntary Assistance	Voluntary.	

Sitting Case Cars — Taxis

No. of Journeys	No. of Cases.	Total Mileage.
1,804	5,151	86,997

Mental Health Service

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Orthopaedic Clinics

This Clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month. Surgeons from Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attend once a month.

Some patients from the Borough attend Orthopaedic Clinics held weekly at Wrexham and Rhyl hospitals.

Venereal Diseases Clinics

These Clinics are held at hospitals in Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester, Bangor and St. Asaph.

School Ophthalmic Clinics

Sessions are held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment.

Some children from the Borough attend Ophthalmic Clinics held at Denbigh, St. Asaph and Wrexham hospitals, and also at Dr. Enid Hughes' surgery at Ruthin.

Child Guidance Clinics

Clinics are held as follows :—

At Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay, on Wednesday and Fridays.

At Gatefield Clinic, Kings Mills Road, Wrexham, on Thursdays and by appointment on Fridays.

Chest Clinics

Patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary or at the weekly clinics held at the Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Family Planning Clinics

Clinics are held as follows :—

At Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay, on Mondays between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.

At No. 1 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, on Thursday, between 2 and 4.30 p.m.

At the County Council Clinic, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, on Wednesdays between 7 and 8 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

This clinic was held at the Baptist Chapel schoolroom until November when the new Clinic was opened at Mount Street. It is a great pleasure working under such ideal conditions.

The number attending the Clinic during the year was :—

First visits.			
Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-6 years.	Total visits.
95	71	89	922

These figures include babies from the Rural District.

Special transport to the Clinic is provided from the outlying districts at Eryrys, Llanferres and Maeshafn where there are no convenient buses. The number of mothers and babies who took advantage of this service during the year was 13 mothers and 20 babies.

Welfare Foods

Welfare foods are sold at the Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, during clinic sessions.

Chiropody Clinic

This clinic was held at the Memorial Buildings by appointment. Patients are referred to this Clinic by General Practitioners, Health Visitors and District Nurses. A charge of 2/6d. per treatment is made. The number of persons who attended this clinic during the year was as follows :—

Number on Register	33
Number of sessions held	12
Number of appointments made ...	84
Number of attendances	71

The above figures include patients from the Rural District who attend this Clinic. From November the Clinic is held at the new premises at Mount Street where the conditions are excellent.

Dental Clinic

No Dental Clinic for mothers and toddlers is held in the Borough, but schools are visited by one of the County Dental Officers. There is a new dental suite at the Mount Street Clinic. In the new year expectant mothers, toddlers and school children will attend for treatment by appointment.

Nursing Services

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the Borough :—

Health Visitors :—
Miss C. J. Davies and Miss E. Edwards, The Clinic, Mount St., Ruthin. Telephone No. Ruthin 2361/2.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :—
Miss M. Lloyd Edwards, The Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham. Telephone No. Wrexham 4242.

District Nurse :—
Sister E. M. Coghlan, Pen-y-Waen, Pentre Celyn, Ruthin. Telephone No. Ruthin 2081.

School Health Attendance

The School Health Attendant visited various schools in the Borough during the year to test the hearing and vision of the children. A portable audiometer and vision screening apparatus was used and children who were found to have defective hearing and/or vision were followed up and referred to a Consultant for further examination where necessary.

The number of children tested during the year was as follows :—

Vision Sweeps		Audiometric Sweeps	
Number of children tested	1261	Number of children tested	1261
Number satisfactory	1220	Number satisfactory	1237
Number of defects	41	Number of defects	24
Number for ingestivation	22	Number for investigation	11
Number for observation	19	Number for observation	13

Domestic Help Service

The number of cases where domestic help was provided was as follows :—

Chronic Sick and T.B.	3
Others	2
Over 65 years of age	92
	97

We are grateful to Mr. Bleddyn Griffith, headmaster, for the following remarks in the weather recorded at the Brynhyfryd Secondary School Meteorological Station, a co-operating station of the Met. Office.

REMARKS ON THE WEATHER OF 1965 AT RUTHIN

Recorded at the Brynhyfryd County Secondary School, Meteorological Station, a co-operating station of the Met. Office.

The most outstanding feature of the weather for the year as a whole has been its extreme wetness. Rain fell during 191 days—thirty days more than last year—giving a total of 36.17 inches of rainfall, compared with the average of 30.06 inches. 9.58 inches of this fell during November and December.

The total of 1332.1 hours of sunshine for the year—only 10.8 hours more than in 1964—was again low. February and July were particularly cloudy months, but the high figures for March and October helped to bring the total up.

General Weather

The New Year began sunny and cold, but as a month January was an unsettled, stormy month. Very strong, easterly gale force winds developed towards the end of the month, bringing temperatures to below normal. This latter type of weather prevailed well into February making it a cold, cloudy, very dry month, noticeably lacking in sunshine. In all there were fourteen days in February with no bright sunshine at all.

March was a month of extreme contrasts. On the 1st, five inches of snow fell, but the next day was very fine with 7.3 hours of sunshine. As a result most of this snow disappeared. The sky remained clear overnight and it became extremely cold. By morning it was seen that the thermometer level had gone down to a record low of 4.8°F (or 27.2 degrees of frost). During the afternoon of the 4th a blizzard sprang up leaving behind thirteen inches of level snow which had, in places, blown into drifts several feet deep. Luckily, the following eight days were very sunny and with the increasing power of the March sunshine it was soon to clear. The month ended with an exceptionally warm, sunny spell with four days of nearly unbroken sunshine. This, on the 29th, with 11.5 hours of sunshine, sent daytime temperatures soaring up to 73°F. There was therefore a difference of as much as 68 degrees between the lowest night and highest day temperatures during the month. Little did we know at the time that there was to be only nine more occasions during the year for the thermometer level to rise to 70 degrees and above.

This fine, warm weather continued into April, but the dry spell, which had lasted for about a week, was broken on the night of the 4th/5th. Unsettled, cold and showery weather prevailed for the remainder of the month, with an especially cold, damp spell over the Easter weekend.

The hottest two days of the year occurred during the 13th and 14th of May, in the middle of a very short five-day heatwave, with a maximum temperature of 77°F. Apart from this short break, May was again a month of changeable weather.

The three recognised holiday months of June, July and August were, weatherwise, most disappointing. During this time there was no period of prolonged warm days with long hours of sunshine. In fact, they were distinctly cool, dull, wet months. There was, however, the occasional day which reminded us that it was summer. The period of 2nd/4th June was one of these with 13.1 hours of bright sunshine to make it the sunniest day of the year.

During September a total rainfall of 4.77 inches was recorded, 1.89 inches above the September average. The wettest day, which was also the wettest of the year, was the 8th when 1.18 inches was recorded during a 24-hour period. The sunshine total of 90.3 inches was only half that of the previous year.

October was to see an improvement, and on the whole was extremely pleasant with above-average temperatures and sunshine hours.

November, like March, was another month of contrasts, the weather varying from being very mild and sunny during the early part to wintry, wet and cold during the latter part. On the night of the 14th/15th the thermometer fell to 19°F and on several days there were snow showers. These cold conditions persisted for three weeks and gave a very early and prolonged start to the winter. Milder, muggy but still very wet weather followed. During the thirty-three days period between 16th November and 18th December precipitation in the form of rain, sleet or snow was recorded on thirty days. Some of these days were extremely wet and stormy. 8.24 inches of rain was recorded during this time, much more than any previously recorded over a similar period.

Although December was such a wet month, with rain falling on 25 days, it was predominantly mild apart from a few days around Christmas. The lowest temperature occurred on the 28th, when a minimum of 17 degrees Fahrenheit was recorded.

Table I MONTHLY RAINFALL AND MEANS (in inches)

MONTH	January	February	March	April	May	June
1965						
Rainfall	3.74	0.73	2.69	1.69	2.53	2.97
7-year Mean	3.54	1.15	1.68	2.34	1.74	2.19...

MONTH	July	August	September	October	November	December
1965						
Rainfall	4.08	1.81	4.77	1.58	4.31	5.27
7-year Mean	2.55	1.85	2.88	2.68	3.73	3.72

Table II MONTHLY SUNSHINE TOTALS AND MEANS (hours)

MONTH	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total Sunshine ...	58.3	32.0	122.3	138.6	148.4	212.0
Mean Daily Sunshine	1.88	1.14	3.94	4.62	4.79	7.06

MONTH	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total Sunshine	132.7	167.1	90.3	115.8	65.3	49.3
Mean Daily Sunshine	4.28	5.39	3.01	3.73	2.18	1.59

Table III MEAN MONTHLY TEMPERATURES (°F)

MONTH	January	February	March	April	May	June
1965 Mean	38.1	36.6	41.1	44.0	51.3	56.6
7-year mean	37.0	39.3	42.4	46.7	52.0	57.0
1965 Extreme Mean	21-53	22-49	5-73	29-63	28-77	40-72

MONTH	July	August	September	October	November	December
1965 Mean	55.7	56.4	52.3	50.8	39.7	40.0
7-year Mean	57.7	57.7	55.3	50.9	43.7	38.6
1965 Extreme Mean	39-69	36-74	37-66	35-71	19-54	17-55